working children identified during the course of survey. Government is taking action to implement the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in letter and spirit.

(c) Does not arise.

Employment of Children as Domestic Servant

857. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that voluntary organisations like Cry, Prayas and Depalaya demonstrated and submitted a memorandum to the President of India to make employment of children as domestic servant a punishable offence; and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken in the matter to create awareness against the distressing reality of child labour at home?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) On the direction of the National Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Labour has taken up the matter with State Governments. Some states have amended their Service Conduct Rules prohibiting Government servants from employing any child below the age of 14 years to work at home.

Accidents in Industrial Establishments in Assam

858. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased tostate:

(a) the number of accidents in industrial establishments in Assam during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have issued instructions and directions to industrial establishments in the State to provide adequate safety as well as check recurrence of such accidents therein; and

(c) if so, the names of industrial establishments which have adopted these safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FDI in Tobacco Sector

859. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to allow 10 per cent FDI in Cigarette manufacturing;

(b) if so, whether this decision will have an adverse impact on the employment of tendu leaf and bidi workers; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to safeguard these workers from MNCs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The existing guidelines for consideration of FDI proposals by FIPE do not stipulate any ceiling on the extent of foreign equity participation inter-alia in sectors pertaining to consumer non-durables, which include cigarettes. However, there has been no precedent of 100% FDI approval in cigarettes so far. The proposal for manufacture of cigarette with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% shall be considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPE) subject to the provisions relating to compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

Changes in Labour Laws

860. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives for appropriate changes in the labour laws and take fresh look at labour policies, conventions and rules

governing recuitment, layouts and Trade Union Act etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of Trade Unions on the proposed chenges;

(c) how far Government have moved in setting up National Labour Commission regarding the present status of the proposal; and

(d) whether Indian Labour Conference 'inter-alia' discussed the proposal and decisions taken thereon agenda-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Review of Labour Laws and labour policies etc. is a continuous process and amendments of the existing legislation and enactment of new legislation is undertaken depending on the requirements. Major changes in the labour policies are carried out only after discussion in the Tripartite Fora where representatives of Trade Unions are also present.

(c) As regards the setting up of National Labour Commission, inter-Ministerial consultations are over and the proposal is before the Government for a final decision.

(d) The question of setting up Second National Labour Commission was discussed in the 34th Session of the Standing Labour Committee on 19th September, 1997 and it was advised that a High-Powered Committee may be set up if the formation of the Second Commission on Labour was not possible. The Indian Labour Conference in the 34th Session held in December, 1997, inter-alia, recommended creation of an appropriate mechanism for review, simplification and rationalisation of labour laws in a time-bound manner.

बीड़ी मजदूरों के लिए अस्पताल

861. श्री जनार्दन यादव: क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार में बीड़ी बनाने के बहुत से कारखाने हैं लेकिन बीड़ी बनाने वाले मजदूरों के लिए कोई अस्पताल नहीं है जिसके कारण बीड़ी मजदूर श्वास की बीमारी से पीड़ित होकर मर जाते हैं;

(ख) अब तक कितने बीड़ी मजदूर श्वास की बीमारी से मरे हैं; और

(ग) क्या बीड़ी मजदूरों को निर्धारित मजदूरी से कम मजदूरी दी जाती है?

श्रम मंत्री (डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया): (क) जी, नहीं। कर्मा (बिहार) में बीड़ी कर्मकारों के लिए एक 30 बिस्तर वाला टी०बी० अस्पताल है। कर्मा में एक और 100 बिस्तर वाला अस्पताल है जो माईका खान श्रम कल्याण निधि के अंतर्गत स्थापित किया गया है। यह भी बीड़ी कर्मकारों और उनके परिवारों को चिकित्सा सुविधाएं प्रदान करता है। इसके अतिरिक्त बीड़ी कर्मकारों के कल्याण के लिए बिहार में बीड़ी कर्मकार कल्याण निधि के अंतर्गत 22 औषधालय भी खोले गये हैं।

(ख) गत पांच वर्ष में सांस सम्बन्धी बीमारियों के कारण मृत्यु के 31 मामलों की जानकारी मिली है।

(ग) न्यूनतम मजदूरी को निर्धारित करने और उसका भुगतान प्रवर्तित करने के लिए समुचित प्राधिकारी, राज्य सरकारों को यह जांच करने के लिए कहा गया है कि उनके द्वारा निर्धारित न्यूनतम मजदूरी बीड़ी कर्मकारों को प्रदान की जा रही है अथवा नहीं।

ESIC Hospitals in the Country

862. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the ndumber of 50-bed ESIC hospitals in the country;

(b) the number of 50-bed ESIC hospitals proposed to be set-up in 1998-99;

(c) the cities or towns selected for such new ESIC hospitals all over the country; and

(d) the criteria laid down for the selection of new sites for 50-bed hospitals?